

careermag FOR PARENTS

Featuring:

Helping your child to make
the next big decision

NCW2021 resources

Viable alternatives to University

The cost of an apprenticeship

Helping
you to
help your
teenager

SECTOR SPOTLIGHTS

Engineering | Adult Social Care | Pharmaceuticals



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National Careers Week



Careermag for Parents

Issue 6 | March 2021

"I'M WORKING ON THE FASTEST GROWING, SAFEST RAILWAY IN EUROPE."

KARUN, LEVEL 3 ENGINEERING APPRENTICE

Hands-on experience, a competitive salary and impressive qualifications, without the extra cost and years in education that come with university.

That's what an apprenticeship with Network Rail has to offer. Being able to combine world-class training with practical experience gives our apprentices the chance to build confidence, develop valuable skills and play a meaningful role on important projects.

The best of both worlds

Just because an apprentice isn't going to university, doesn't mean they'll miss out on the social side of things. All our apprenticeships start with a 12 week residential period at one of our training centres. So, they'll be living, studying and socialising with a community of apprentices just like them.

This gives apprentices a great way to make friends in an environment that's not completely dissimilar to spending a few months at university (with the big difference being that all accommodation, tuition fees and three meals a day are all completely paid for).

A great way to get ahead

By the end of the programme, apprentices will have three years' experience, several qualifications and connections with some of the most talented people working in rail.

And most importantly, they'll already have a job and be perfectly placed to take the next step in their career with us, whatever that may be.

**HELP SOMEONE YOU KNOW START
A CAREER THAT'S GOING PLACES**

Find out more..

NETWORKRAIL.CO.UK/CAREERS

Empowering Young People to Respond to Change

Against the backdrop of COVID-19 the rate of change around us has accelerated - changes in technology, industries, careers, learning and lifestyles. The role of education and learning will remain crucial as we continue to respond to change at an individual, community and wider economic level. We will all have to learn as job roles change and adapt to technological developments.



The make-up of the workforce and careers is going to continue to evolve in the coming months and years with greater automation, a shift to digital enabled roles and growth, contraction and transformation happening across many business sectors.

From an education perspective there needs to be the choice of qualifications and courses which supply the skills that are required by employers – and in the UK we already have this with a number of effective pathways such as A levels, Technical and Vocational (including Pearson BTECs) and work-based provision, including Apprenticeships and the introduction of T Levels will add another level of occupational choice for 16-18-year olds.

It's critical that we focus on developing talent to meet the needs of existing and emerging industry sectors where there are employment and career opportunities. I believe the key to this is flexibility and choice.

Multiple pathways offer choice to people of all ages to be prepared and supported for life and careers in this rapidly changing world. Currently 40% of young people post-16 choose the academic route offered by A levels, progressing to higher education. The remaining 60% choose vocational or work-based pathways. It's critically important that we maintain the choice for the 60% between early specialisation that T levels offer (training for a very specific job aged 16-18), and the broader career-focused option of vocational qualifications such as BTECs. For over 30 years, BTECs have provided learners with up-to-date industry knowledge, skills and behaviours which open doors to a range of careers, as well as access higher education - most importantly, equipping them with skills such as teamwork, critical thinking, decision making and communication skills that are transferable in a changing world.

Continual transformation of education will be crucial as we prepare for the future; the increasing role of technology in learning, embedding the right skills in the educational journey and creating a culture of lifelong learning – it is these components that will help us to be flexible and adapt to whatever the future of work holds.

National Careers Week gives us the opportunity to celebrate careers guidance and educational resources across the UK. Linking education with the world of employment means young learners and adults have greater visibility of the pathways available to them, enabling them to make better decisions to make progress in their careers and in their lives.

I'm delighted to be supporting such an important issue of Careermap.

Cindy Rampersaud
Senior Vice President at Pearson for BTEC and Apprenticeships





HELP THEM BUILD THEIR FUTURES WITH A QA APPRENTICESHIP

#PoweringPotential



We build tech careers

Over the last 10 years, QA have jump-started over 30,000 careers through our apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships. An apprenticeship is a modern, hands on way to get started in a rewarding career. Apprentices work with an employer and earn a competitive salary whilst also developing their digital skills in one of our forward-thinking disciplines. They'll even gain a qualification along the way.

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- IT Systems and Networking
- Cyber Security
- Data Analysis
- Digital Marketing
- Or degree apprenticeship programmes in Cyber Security or Digital Solutions

Who do our apprentices work with?

We have vacancies available throughout the year in locations all across the country. Our apprentices get to work with super-savvy start-ups, innovative medium-sized businesses or even large scale household brands. Some of our apprentices have gone on to work at Royal Mail, O2 and Visa.

[Click here to find out more](#)

THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION'S ONLY JUST BEGINNING, AND PEOPLE WHO USE TECHNOLOGY WELL ARE IN HIGH DEMAND.



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Issue 6 February 2021

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
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About Careermag

Careermag publications are designed to provide quality, up-to-date information about careers and qualifications. Careers are not a linear path and you cannot know what you don't know. We aim to inspire and inform about all sorts of careers and opportunities, now and in the future. We look at all the pathways you can take, be that vocational, academic and/or professional.

We welcome your input! Please get in touch if you have any questions or something to contribute.

Contact the Editor at info@careermag.co.uk

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Welcome to the March 2021 edition of Careermag for Parents

I wrote out the whole title because now is one time we will always remember. The second spring in a pandemic!

The last year has been challenging for everyone, but I would argue, harder for parents. Trying to work from home, school your children from, live at home, stay at home... it is seemingly endless and hard work.

I hope you find time to grab a cuppa and have a read of this edition in peace. It's jammed full of interesting features to inspire you for those conversations with your young ones who are thinking about next steps following compulsory education.

Thank YOU!

Rachel Johnson, head of the school partnership PiXL has this to say: *If you have been juggling the demands of work and of home schooling can I just say thank you on behalf of schools up and down the country? As you will know, schools have had to change the way we work entirely and have been learning on the go; we know it has been a challenge for us, for you and for your students.*



What is becoming clear though, is the remarkable resilience that your young people are showing – engagement in lessons is high, attendance in lessons and work completed are promising too and we know that so many students have found a pattern of working that suits them and that is in no small part, down to you and your help and support. This generation is not 'lost' even if the media like the headline, we will build on already strong foundations and our schools are committed to doing the very best for your children. We hope, very much, that we will be seeing them full time, soon.

Stay strong!

Sharon and the Careermap Team

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Choose a career that matters

Our apprenticeships give you the chance to take part in a variety of work, learn from the experts and achieve an industry-leading qualification while you earn.



We want passion and integrity, as well as ambition and aptitude – so visit www.fca.org.uk/careers/early-careers to find out more and register your interest.





Making the next big decision

Tips on helping you help young people make next step decisions following compulsory education during a pandemic

As a parent I know how difficult it is to help our children to prepare for their next steps after compulsory education. So many aspects of the world of work have changed and will continue to do so in the aftermath of the pandemic. Without underplaying the immediate challenges, these bring exciting new opportunities as different sectors adapt and grounds for hope and optimism.

My top advice to parents is to explore these opportunities with your sons and daughters using great resources like the Careermap website and this magazine. You will soon see that there are all kinds of exciting routes many of which probably didn't exist when you and I made our choices.

Here are some key questions to consider:

Which is better? Going to a university or doing an apprenticeship?

There is no right answer to this question. It really depends on the individual. However, it is really important to understand that apprenticeships are a genuine alternative to university. You can do apprenticeships at lots of different levels all the way up to ones at degree level where you achieve the same qualification as at university whilst being employed. This means earning a salary and not incurring any university fees as these are all paid for by the employer.



Brian Lightman is a former headteacher and General Secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders and now leads the work for PiXL on careers education. PiXL is a network of some 3000 schools which work together to give young people a better future and brighter hope.

When do I have to decide?

Though there are specific deadlines for university applications, apprenticeships can be advertised at different times. You do not need to apply for only one route at a time, so my advice is to keep your options open for as long as possible.

What should I be doing now?

I would recommend three steps:

The first thing a young person needs to do is to reflect on their own interests, skill sets and passions. What really interests them? What kinds of jobs might enable them to make full use of those? We want to help them to find a career which they will enjoy and find fulfilling. Everyone has different strengths and there is certainly no one size fits all route.

The second step is to do as much research as possible. Watch online videos such as those on CareermapLive, that include people talking about their jobs. Explore websites of different companies and universities and look at what they have to offer and what the entrance requirements are. Look beyond the traditional job titles we know about. For example, lots of people interested in Science or health think immediately of medicine or nursing, but there are thousands of different careers using scientific knowledge and skills. Employers love people who show their initiative, so encourage your sons and daughters to contact the employers they are interested in with their questions. It costs nothing to ask!

Third, keep a record of what you find out about all of this to start to create a shortlist of possible choices.

This will be an exciting journey. I hope you all enjoy it.

NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK

1ST-6TH MARCH 2021

#NCW2021

Helping your child to make decisions.

Remember the career advice you had at school or college?

I do. I went to see a grey man in a grey suit behind a grey desk in a room with a grey door in a grey concrete council building. When I sat down and said to him that I'd like to see if I could be a pilot in the RAF (there were some really cool adverts on TV for the RAF in the 1980s), he stifled a laugh and suggested I consider an office job or the police force.

I'm delighted to say that things have changed enormously since 1984 and the internet has opened up MASSIVE opportunities to support young people in their search for meaningful and realistic information about careers – both directly from companies and organisations recruiting people, educational establishments and other industry organisations.

In a recent study by Warwick University, Sally-Anne Barnes et al. found that 40% of parents felt ill-equipped to advise on careers:

'Recent surveys of parents and students reported that just three in five parents felt confident in advising their child about 'how they can achieve their career/job goals' or 'what career/job options would be best for them'

It's not the fault of parents if that they can't keep abreast of the 'best' careers advice for their child, after all, many mums and dads are too busy trying to pursue their own career goals. In fact, it's nobody's fault because work changes, routes to work change, the fourth industrial revolution is developing technological solutions more quickly than at any previous time in history so keeping ahead of it would be a full-time job of its own.

That's why there are loads of organisations who exist to help teachers, pupils and parents alike to understand the possible pathways open to young people. Luckily, I'm a Director of National Careers Week – NCW - and as such, I'm delighted to share what we're doing this year to support parents, schools and students.

As a Community Interest Company (CIC) we are non-profit making and use the sponsorships we secure to deliver great services, activities and resources for young people from organisations across the spectrum. Please find below some new activities and information about where they can be downloaded from:

Firstly, for a fascinating glimpse into the future of work, the Future Of Work Guide will help you and your children to discuss the future of employment and the skills that will be required to meet the needs of organisations as we continue into the fourth industrial revolution: [The Future of Work Guide](#)

The BRAND NEW Virtual Careers Fair (VCF) will be open during NCW2021 at NCW2021.co.uk with a number of floors and rooms hosted by our sponsors where they will share some of their best resources and content – including organisations such as NatWest, NHS Careers, BAE Systems, Burberry and dozens of others.

National Careers Week

NCW



To help consolidate the learning you'll be doing, download the free Launch Yourself booklet as a useful tool for secondary students, can be used for personal skills and careers exploration – whether students are in school or learning from home. <https://nationalcareersweek.com/hcop-launch-yourself/>

The Launch Yourself booklet is an editable PDF file and links to a number of videos on our TV Channel NCCWTV.co.uk where you'll find multiple channels and links to BBC Bitesize, Careers, STEM.org.uk films, the Royal Society of Chemistry and a host of others.

If home-schooling is becoming challenging and you still want to support learning but want to have a bit more fun with it, why not use these 3 x simple dice games consisting of 5, 10 and 15 minutes activities which you can find here: [The NCW Dice Game](#)

Up to the minute information can be found on Twitter and Instagram at @CareersWeek under the #NCW2021 hashtag and the rest of the resources can be found via www.nationalcareersweek.com and at www.NCW2021.co.uk

Empowering Positive Change through Careers Education.

#NCW2021



Headline Partner:



Elizabeth Cardwell

AN APPRENTICE ON THE COVID FRONT-LINE



Elizabeth Cardwell has just completed a Customer Service Level 2 apprenticeship with the Apprenticeship and Development Centre at University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust (Leicester's Hospitals), where she also works.

MANAGING PATIENT CARE IN A PANDEMIC

Elizabeth Cardwell has just completed an apprenticeship and works as part of the non-medical admin team at University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust. She has been in her role for 18 years and understandably has a strong and long-standing relationship with many of the people who attend the hospital for medical care.

We asked Elizabeth how the current pandemic has affected those relationships. "Our patients are so wonderful that they make my job not really a job to me - it is a way of life. As a Trust we have adapted our working practices, as much as we can, to keep both staff and patients safe., It means I have missed seeing them in 'real life', as many of our services are being carried out remotely, wherever possible."

"My key role has been to ensure that the continuity of service, care and support is there" Elizabeth adds. "With many people feeling anxious about the Covid situation I feel more of a sense of responsibility to ensure I can do as much as I can to support both colleagues and patients through this time".

BALANCING WORK AND FAMILY COMMITMENTS

Like many of the key workers who have kept the country going through the pandemic, Elizabeth has faced some personal challenges. She is a mum of two boys who themselves had routines turned upside down. Her husband working from home has been different to the norm and her youngest son has felt anxious about his mum at times because she works in a hospital.

"Sometimes I found the juggling of all these elements a challenge" says Elizabeth. "It was hard to say to my children that there is nothing to fear when inside I was feeling apprehensive and nervous myself" she adds. Ensuring elderly relatives were cared for at the same time added to her family responsibilities. But she has found great support from her colleagues at work, her employer and the public too and the overwhelming support and generosity touched her a lot. She hopes the coming together of communities will continue beyond the current crisis

Many thanks to Elizabeth Cardwell and the Apprenticeship team from Leicester's Hospitals.

COMPLETING HER APPRENTICESHIP

The Apprenticeship and Development Centre at Leicester's Hospitals have been a great support to Elizabeth while she completed her apprenticeship studies. "The Learning and Development team has been the absolute pinnacle of fantastic!" says Elizabeth. The team there adapted learning methods to suit her circumstances, were always contactable and she says they gave her the strength to know that despite Covid, with their support, they would get to the end of the apprenticeship together.

"Getting results during lockdown has been a welcome distraction from the Covid climate" says Elizabeth. "And the motivation of achieving and passing was something to aim for when the days where hard, knowing I was doing this to not only improve myself but would demonstrate to my children that despite Covid anything was possible - even Mummy passing her course!"

As an adult learner, Elizabeth has experienced a unique set of challenges. "Doing an apprenticeship in my 40's was always going to push my boundaries of confidence and self-belief. However the skills I have picked up through study days and learning has made me stronger and resilient. Since results day I know that I can do anything I put my mind to, nothing is impossible with teamwork and positive mental attitude".

BTEC CONSTRUCTION

#BUILTBYBTEC



Name: George Clarke

Job Title: TV Presenter, Architect and
Founder of MOBIE

BTEC studied: BTEC Level 3 in Building and
Construction at Wearside College *



Why did you choose to study a BTEC in Construction?

I started my BTEC when I was 16; I came out of school having done my GCSEs and chose not to do A Levels. I felt like I knew where I wanted to go and the BTEC was really good because it was more specific in an area that I was really interested in.

I think the skills and experience that I gained at 16, by being in the workplace, and by going through that more chosen academic route, which ultimately led me into university, was such a **brilliant starting foundation**. It allowed me to focus on an area that I was particularly interested in, rather than going down the conventional route of channeling a little bit later down the line. **I'm a big ambassador BTEC and believe it is an excellent, valued way of starting a career path in construction.**

How do you think studying a BTEC helped you in your career?

For me, **my BTEC was genuinely the foundation stone of my career**. It taught me so much about everything to do with construction, and if it wasn't for that, there's no way on earth I'd be where I am today.

What did you enjoy most about studying a BTEC?

Being a designer, the design module was fantastic. **We did a lot; it was quite a broad spectrum of things**. We did surveying, quantity surveying, all sorts of measurements. We did things from heating systems to drainage systems – you name it.

Why would you recommend a career in construction?

My BTEC course was massively diverse. We did many different modules, which were quite wide-ranging. And, people ended up doing lots of different things. Yes, we did have some quite traditional trades like bricklayers, plasterers and electricians, but we also had brilliant engineers and great designers. I went on to become an architect, so it's brilliant, the range of careers you can get from a BTEC course.

*this qualification has since been replaced by the current BTEC Nationals in Construction

To find out more about BTEC Construction
qualifications, visit quals.pearson.com/BuiltbyBTEC



Grow your talent with Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships offer a unique opportunity to reskill and upskill, as well as allow individuals to start a new career, progress or change to a new one.

With a shift to online working and learning, our Apprenticeship solutions focuses on standards, using qualifications and digital learning resources to create structured and engaging learning experiences for apprentices.

Our Apprenticeship Offer

We offer a range of products and services for every step of the apprenticeship journey:

- An expanding range of qualifications
- Digital learning resources via Pearson Learning Hub
- End-point Assessments (EPAs) and services to support the delivery of Apprenticeship Standards, including EPA customer support webinars for trainers and assessors
- Up-to-date advice and guidance to support effective delivery

Our apprenticeship solutions are designed to give your apprentices the best opportunity to achieve their full potential and to progress in their chosen career path.

We offer apprenticeship solutions in a range of key sectors such as Health and Social Care, Engineering, Construction and IT.

Learn more about all our current Apprenticeship offers:
quals.pearson.com/apprenticeships





Lifetime Skills Guarantee

If you're looking to start your career, progress further in your chosen role or change career direction, there are a number of funding options that you may find helpful.

The Lifetime Skills Guarantee is one of the Government's latest initiatives, aimed at boosting productivity and helping the country build back better from coronavirus.

Part of the guarantee is to fully fund any adult aged 24 and over who wants to achieve their first full Level 3 qualification. Courses will be available in a variety of lengths, to support adults to get the skills they need to boost their careers. This will be funded under the National Skills Fund. Pearson have 80 qualifications, covering a range of the identified sectors, that are eligible for this funding.

For more
information visit:
go.pearson.com/lsg



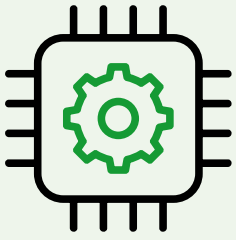
Transform your world

We can only improve quality of life by working together and applying our skills and expertise across design, consultancy, engineering, project and management services. With work that is complex, challenging and rewarding.

At Arcadis, your child will have the opportunity to build the career that's right for them. We take the time to listen, to understand and provide the support they need to achieve their ambitions.

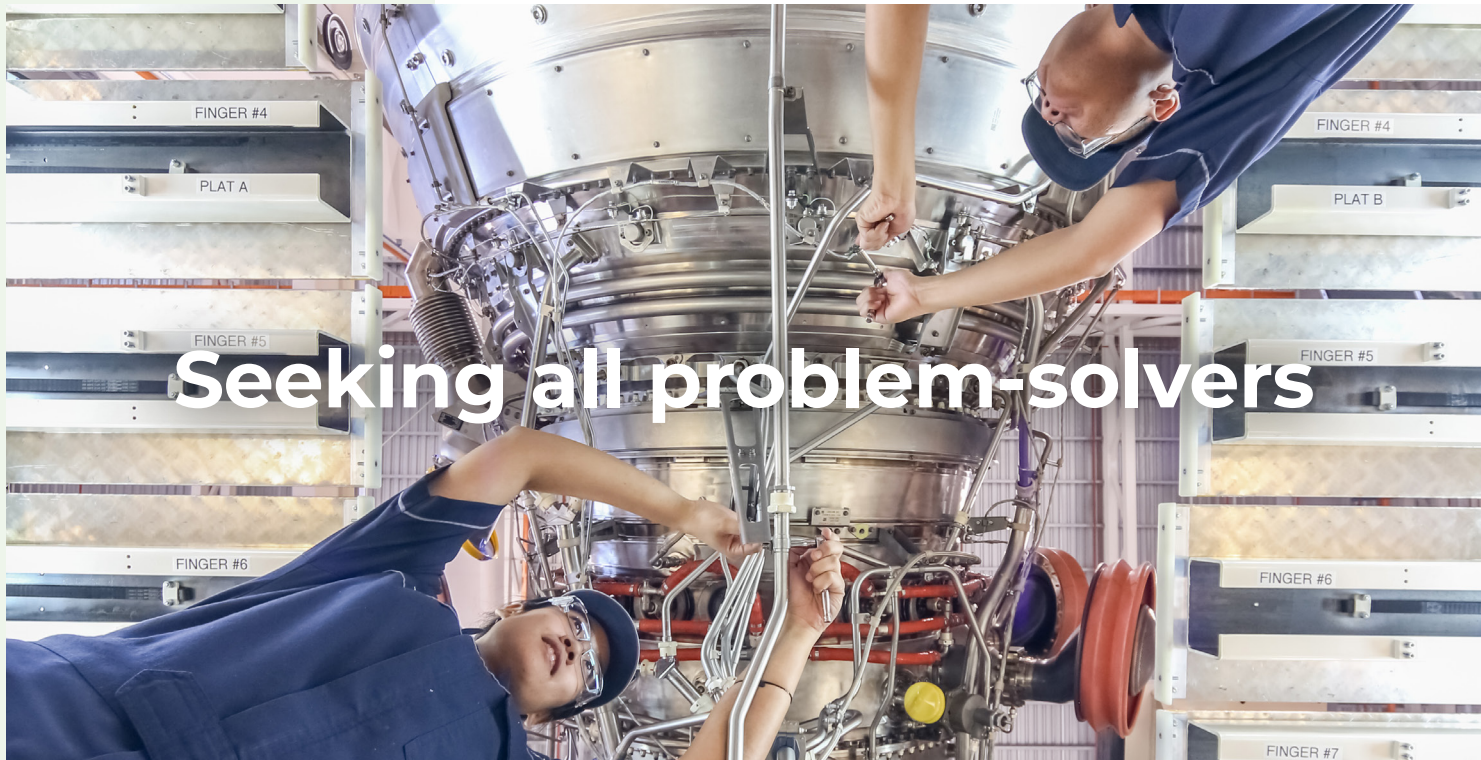
Learn more and search 'register your interest' at careers.arcadis.com

Improving quality of life.



SECTOR SPOTLIGHT

Engineer your future



Seeking all problem-solvers

There's no denying that 2020 has been a difficult year for young people with lockdown and restrictions affecting everything from exams to socialising. A recent survey found that a majority of 11 to 19-year olds feel worried about their future, citing that the coronavirus pandemic will make it harder to either find a job or study further.

We also know that many students aspire to choose a career that lets them pursue their passion or that makes a positive difference to the world. Our research tells us that nine out of ten young people want a career that tackles social issues, from addressing environmental issues to keeping people safe and well. We also know that factors such as job opportunity and security are really important too, especially at this time of change.

For many young people, job security and fulfilment could be found in engineering.

During the coronavirus crisis a spotlight has been shone on the brilliant work of scientists, technicians and engineers responding to the needs of the nation. We've seen exceptional examples of engineering across essential services and infrastructure - from engineers and scientists working together to create a vaccine to the design and delivery of thousands of ventilators.

There are also many routes into engineering – apprenticeships, further education or traditional academic route at university – which means it's accessible to all and it's a sector that needs more people that pays well at all levels.

About Engineering

Engineers are integral to the success of major infrastructure projects and are at the heart of developments in nanomedicine; they make cars safer, roads smarter and broadband faster. It's engineers who develop sustainable solutions for our future food, water and energy needs, who work on artificial intelligence and who protect individuals and organisations from cyber-attacks. It's engineers whose ideas and innovations will shape our future world, making a real difference to how we live our lives.

What do engineers do? They design the systems, equipment and components that make air travel and space exploration possible. They develop the hardware and software in our homes, devices and wearable tech. They come up with innovations that improve health and healthcare. They are key in disaster recovery, flood prevention and building safety. They're cleaning up oceans, advancing recycling and reducing the carbon footprint in everyday life. They help amateur and professional sportspeople perform better and even keep animals safe and healthy.

So why choose engineering?

- Engineers make a difference to the world
- Engineers are in demand and they earn good money
- Engineering is behind almost everything you can think of
- Like doctors and lawyers, professionally registered engineers are well respected
- Engineers are creative, practical and forward-thinking

There's an engineer for everyone. Take the 'Meet the future you' careers quiz and discover how different interests and skills relate to different types of engineering. Find out more at www.mtfy.org.uk/



Engineering employs 5.6 million people in the UK.

Source: The state of engineering, key facts 2018, EngineeringUK

Solve problems, save lives

The engineering industry is incredibly diverse, with exciting career opportunities in everything from space and energy to design and food, sport and entertainment to gaming and technology. From dealing with cyber security and minimising the impact of natural disasters to developing sustainable energy, food, housing and products - engineers help pave the way to a better future for everyone.

Your child could make flying more environmentally friendly as an aerospace engineer or drive the use of renewable energy as an electrical or energy engineer. Biomedical engineers develop life-saving equipment and chemical engineers can stop the spread of disease. While, as a manufacturing engineer your child could develop new ways of creating medical products. Mechanical engineering could see

them designing prosthetic limbs and a civil or structural engineer could be supporting international development or disaster recovery.

Believe it or not, as an engineer it's possible you can save far more lives than as a medic!

Creative solutions come from diverse talent

The beauty of engineering is that it is just so diverse - not just in the range of problems engineers solve but in the types of people and the pathways they take into the industry. You don't have to be a mathematical genius or chemistry wizard to become an engineer. A good understanding of maths and science (especially physics) will stand you in great stead, but so will skills in computing, D&T, construction, electronics. At its heart, engineering is all about creativity, problem-solving, teamwork and curiosity.



Types of jobs

Engineers help develop...

- Smart clothing with inbuilt sensors that can monitor health
- Faster recharging mobile phones with more features and computing power
- Virtual reality games that can be played in 3D
- 3D printed objects in a wide variety of materials, including living tissue
- Artificial limbs for the injured and medicine for diseases like Coronavirus and Ebola
- 3D games consoles and solar powered laptops
- Make-up that automatically matches skin tone
- Systems to reduce the risk of flooding
- Driverless vehicles and spacecraft
- Supercomputers that predict the effects of climate change
- Voice recognition and Artificial Intelligence (AI), which means that we can now talk and ask questions in any language
- Wearable tech that reduces stress and supports good mental health

And, crucially, many of the jobs young people will be doing in 10 years' time don't even exist yet!

Transferrable skills you'll gain as an engineer:

- Teamwork
- Communication
- Logic
- Creativity
- Perseverance
- Learning from 'failure' and adapting

Skills that engineers acquire - such as problem-solving, teamwork, project management and numeracy – are sought after by employers in nearly every industry, meaning that engineers are highly employable and can easily transfer their skills to different areas. Even though the pandemic is seeing shifts in the engineering workforce, employers are still reporting skills gaps, so there remains significant demand for engineering skills, with fantastic earning potential at all levels. And with the government's commitments to investing in infrastructure, construction and decarbonisation, and innovation, now and into the future, hundreds of thousands more engineers will be needed.



203,000 people with Level 3+ engineering skills are needed every year to meet demand. Engineering generates 23% of the UK's total turnover Source: The state of engineering, key facts 2018, EngineeringUK

Case Study - Less obvious engineering careers

You might be surprised to hear that engineers are needed in entertainment and sport industries – whether it's a demand for special effects or goal line technology, there's a whole host of careers to be found.

If your child has a passion like football, food or fashion then engineering is unique in that it can allow you to follow your passion and make a career of it. Many young people aspire to work in sport and entertainment but may not realise that engineering is a vital part of these industries.

Some specific examples of how engineering is involved in sport and entertainment include creating visual effects for films and stage, developing cutting-edge sports gadgets, recording, mixing and editing music, smart fabrics, hawk-eye technology, wearable tech, sports equipment manufacturing, building stadiums, data analysts (operational research) to work out fixture schedules and where to position fire exits in football stadiums, pyrotechnics for live events and theatre, creating moveable sets for stage, CGI for film, acoustic engineering, designing art galleries and iconic spaces such as Kings Cross station, designing the technology used in mixing paints, developing new fabrics and materials, developing apps and designing computer games. Job roles in the entertainment and sports industries include: Sound Effects Engineer, Digital Musician, Computer Games Designer, Stadium Designer, Sports Engineer and CGI Effects Engineer.

Pathways and qualifications

Engineers come from all different backgrounds and have achieved success through very different routes into the industry, including through apprenticeships, vocational training and university degrees.

Important subjects for engineering are maths and physics (and chemistry, for certain disciplines). Computing, electronics, design and technology, and construction and the built environment can also be very useful, along with geography, art and languages. Careers in the engineering sector are accessible to anyone with a passion for solving practical problems in a creative way.

Engineers are trained in a practical way, using maths, science, computing and design.

Apprenticeships are available all the way up to Level 7, which is master's degree level. This makes them a great alternative to a traditional academic route – you can get a degree and all the fees are covered by an employer.

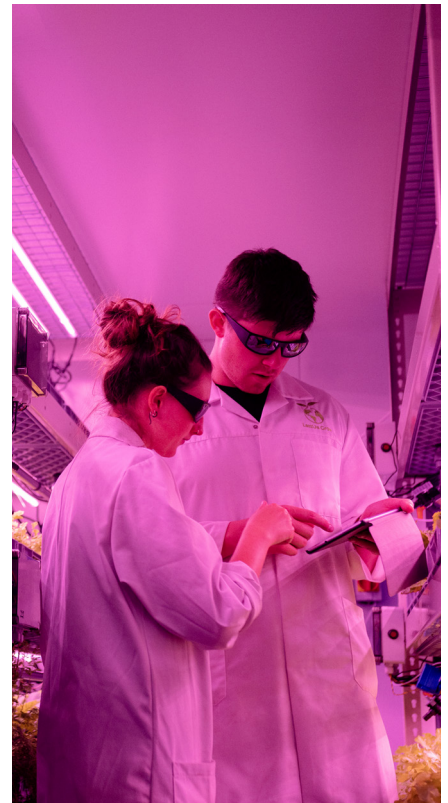
Engineering technicians often work with engineers to solve practical engineering problems and are usually trained through vocational or apprenticeship routes.

Apprenticeships combine on-the-job training with studying for vocational qualifications, or even a degree at university. Vocational qualifications/Tech Levels are work-related qualifications, which can be taken full-time at school or college (as a pathway to work or university) or part time, during an apprenticeship. They include: BTEC Diplomas, City & Guilds, EAL NVQs and SVQs, HNCs, HNDs and others.

As an apprentice, you can earn while you learn. Apprentices work towards nationally recognised qualifications and spend the rest of their time developing technical skills and 'on-the-job' knowledge with an employer in their chosen industry.

On completion of an apprenticeship, many people stay with their existing employer and progress from apprentice to professional technician or engineer.

Apprentices are supported throughout their training and encouraged to take on varied tasks and pick up new skills. This gives them the opportunity to prove themselves to an employer, who is likely to be keen to employ someone after training as they have invested a huge amount of



How can you spot an engineer in waiting?

There are some common signs that engineers will exhibit, even at an early age. A career in engineering could be right for your child if they...

- Ask how things work
- Dismantle and re-assemble things
- Come up with solutions to problems

They'll enjoy engineering if they are:

- Curious
- Open-minded
- Resourceful
- A team-player
- A problem-solver

time and money in developing their knowledge and skills.

For more information and to hear from engineering professionals who started out as apprentices, go to www.tomorrowsengineers.org.uk

Whichever route they choose, they'll be rewarded, challenged and stimulated, gaining highly valued, transferable skills that will equip them for the future



Case Study - Engineers on a mission

The annual campaign **Tomorrow's Engineers Week** has featured several inspiring engineers at different stages of their careers making an impact on the world. They include:

- Bob and Marc, who have created a crossing on the A827 in Scotland to reduce otter fatalities.
- Jack, a design engineer who has created a wristband that helps keep you calm under pressure
- Dave, whose special effects with fire and explosives are used for TV and live events
- Sean who works on state of the art 3G football pitches to get more people doing sport whatever the weather
- Oliver, a young civil engineer, who designed a new access road to a hospital
- Roger who started his career building dams and now saves lives by helping people in the developing world access safe drinking water
- Sarah who qualified as an engineer in the RAF and now makes sure things are safe on the Wrigley production line
- Marion and Avery who work with locals in developing countries to build bridges that change lives forever
- Sujith an environmental consultant whose work helps reduce air pollution
- Thilo who uses his engineering skills to help injured horses
- Simon who created an innovative flood protection solution after floods caused £120,000 of damage to his parents' home
- CK who volunteers for the British Red Cross to help to improve public health in conflict zones
- Jemima an engineering apprentice on a mission to find medical cures
- Sankha and David – former UK Young Engineers of the Year – who have created a vest that detects epileptic fits before they occur

Watch the [films](#) and find more careers inspiration on the Tomorrow's Engineers [website](#).

Support for teachers and schools

To support schools to access Covid-secure engineering resources and experiences, EngineeringUK recently launched Neon, a digital platform that gives teachers easy access to quality assured online and offline engineering outreach activities. For the first time, Neon brings together the UK's best engineering experiences and inspiring career resources in one place, bringing STEM careers to life. With the support of the engineering community, Neon empowers teachers with the tools they need to engage young people in a career in the engineering sector, which makes up nearly 20% of the workforce.

Every time a new job in engineering is created 1.74 jobs are created elsewhere.

Source: The state of engineering, key facts 2018, EngineeringUK



BENTLEY

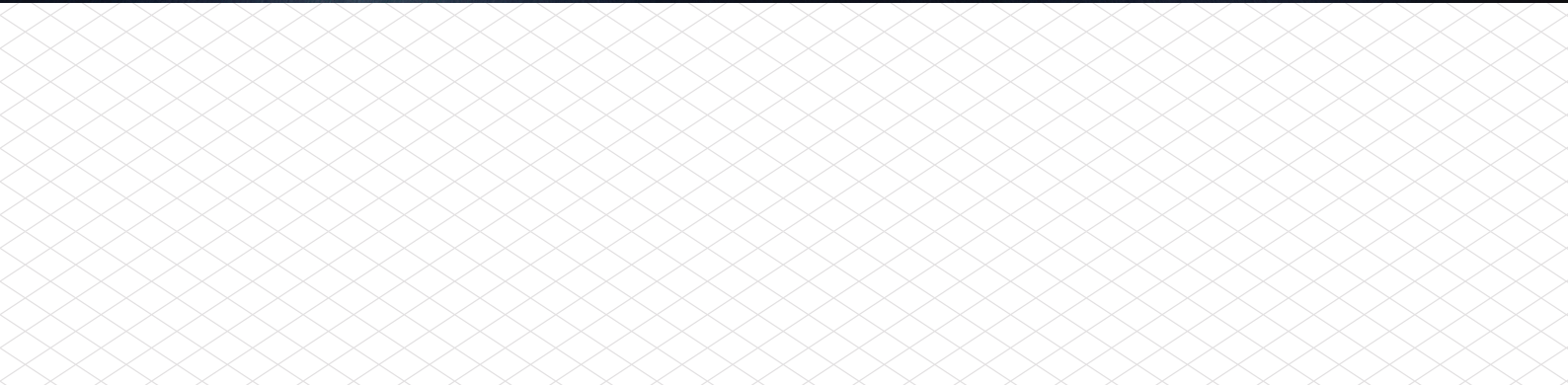
An extraordinary apprenticeship.

Bentley's award-winning apprenticeship programmes are open for applications in 2021. We're looking for extraordinary people to drive forward our Beyond100 strategy. With opportunities in Digital, Business and Project Management, Engineering, Manufacturing and Production, there's a journey for everyone.

Visit [BentleyCareers.com](https://www.bentley.com/careers) to see details of all current opportunities.

Follow Bentley Motors ([#BentleyFutureTalent](https://www.linkedin.com/company/bentley-motors)) on LinkedIn and [@BentleyCareers](https://twitter.com/BentleyCareers) on Twitter.

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Kris Atkinson-Hines, Account Manager Apprentice

What subjects did you study?

Sociology, Economics and Physical Education with an AS level in Math's.

What do you do on a day-to-day basis?

The main goal of my role is to grow existing accounts and build relationships to a point where they see Experian as an extension of their own company. It's fast paced and very varied which I like.

Why did you choose to do an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship was never something which I was told about during school - I was always pushed to go to university. It was only during my gap year I discovered how to get into higher education whilst earning at the same time. It was a no brainer for me! I could use my A-levels towards a degree in something, whilst also earning money.

What advice do you have for others?

Opportunities are not going to fall into your lap, you need to go out and grab them! Show an eagerness to learn and give it a try. After all, what have you got to lose?

★ RATEMYPLACEMENT

2020 - 2021

Top 65
Medium-sized
Schemes



The Apprenticeship Option

The pandemic has made many parents think more carefully about apprenticeships, but what does that pathway look like? Adam Powley, Talent Attraction Specialist at Amazon gives some invaluable employer insight.

Apprenticeships have probably changed dramatically since you were young. Traditionally viewed as a way to provide further education for those where University is not an option. But things have changed! An apprenticeship is an excellent step on the employment ladder, providing qualifications for progression, as well as training on the job. And if choosing to do a Degree Apprenticeship, it includes working towards a university degree without the debt. Schools and colleges can strongly encourage high performing students towards university as a next step of their education, but a degree apprenticeship is a great alternative.

Apprenticeships are a great alternative to university for their children who may be studying A-Levels or similar. In addition to gaining a degree qualification accredited by a top university, a degree apprentice will gain four years work experience to add to their CV whilst earning a very competitive wage instead of incurring student debts. In most cases, a job is on offer once the apprenticeship is completed.

University is not for everyone. An apprenticeship allows young people to continue their education, gain a qualification, while also gaining valuable work experience and earning a highly competitive wage at the same time.

At the end of every apprenticeship the candidate can use the skills and qualifications gained to accelerate their career progression, either with the company they completed the apprenticeship programme with or elsewhere. They can also continue onto a higher level apprenticeship should they wish, to further their qualifications. We see multiple examples every year of apprentices who use the skills gained to achieve promotion.

There are apprenticeships available for everyone, whether you have academic qualifications or not. You can see from the table below that apprenticeships are available from GCSE up to masters level. There are programmes available to suit everyone.

Name	Level	Equivalent Education Level
Intermediate	2	GCSE
Advanced	3	A-Level
Higher	4 & 5	Foundation degree and above
Degree	6 & 7	Bachelor degree or masters

What's special about doing an apprenticeship with Amazon?

It is our intention to offer permanent opportunities to every apprentice who successfully graduates from our programmes (although this isn't guaranteed). We pay a highly competitive wage (up to £30k a year for some of our degree programmes) and our apprentices are involved in critical projects for our customers. Apprentices get to put their training into practice on important projects where they can see how their input is being used by Amazon customers. It's rewarding to see immediate value for work well done! Amazon has around 850 apprentices on programme in the UK with 1000 more opportunities being offered in 2021. So apprentices join a wide network across the UK in a company which is investing more and more into apprenticeship programmes.

Apprenticeships with
amazon

Amazon Apprenticeships

If you would like to find out more about the apprenticeship opportunities at [Apprenticeships with Amazon](#)



LAUNCH A FUN AND EXCITING CAREER WITH AN APPRENTICESHIP

DON'T MISS OUT ON WORKING
FOR ONE OF THE BEST EMPLOYERS

APPLY TODAY!



SECTOR SPOTLIGHT

A caring profession



The opportunity to make a positive difference to people's lives every day

Social care is about supporting people to maintain their independence, dignity and control. This includes providing personal and practical support to help people live their lives.

A career in social care offers long-term employment prospects, with opportunity for promotion and progression as well as job security.

About Adult Social Care



Social care workers could be supporting someone with a range of disabilities, dementia or mental health conditions. They could be working in a care home, in the local community or from someone's home.

If you like working with people, social care offers a worthwhile job that can turn into a rewarding, long-term career.

There are currently around 1.62 million paid jobs in adult social care in England, carried out by 1.49 million people.

Skills

People come from a range of backgrounds and age groups. If you want to help people there's a social care job for you.

You don't necessarily need any qualifications or previous work experience to get a job in social care. In social care you'll be helping people to live more independently and have a better quality of life so it's really important you have the right values and attitude.

There are currently around 1.62 million paid jobs in adult social care in England, carried out by 1.49 million people.

Here are some of the values and behaviours you might need to work in social care.

- Treat people with dignity and respect.
- Good at working with others.
- Committed to quality care and improving lives.
- Willing to learn and develop at work.

Here are examples of how these values might look in your everyday work.

- You spend time listening to people to get to know them and their needs.
- You respect people's right to make their own choices and decisions.
- You're committed to working as part of a team.
- You give people your full attention and help people when they need it most.

Some of the skills you need will be specific to the job you're applying for. However, everyone working in social care needs English, number, digital and employability skills, including problem solving and teamwork. One of the great things about adult social care is that as long as someone has the right core values, most employers will provide development opportunities to enable people to put their transferable skills into action.

Pathways and qualifications

You don't necessarily need any qualifications to start working in social care; what's really important is your values. Most social care qualifications can be done once you start your role as they're specific to the job you're doing and the skills you need to do it; these are known as vocational qualifications.



There are some qualifications you might want to think about to get a taster of what it's like to work in the sector, including the Level 1 Award in Preparing to work in the care sector.

If you want to work in adult social care, there are lots of options to help you get started.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are a great option for anyone who's ready to start work and wants to develop their skills and knowledge in the sector. They involve working with a social care employer whilst achieving a qualification, doing skills training and earning a wage. There are different levels of apprenticeships, from level two to level six, depending on your experience. www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

Traineeships

Don't feel ready to do an apprenticeship? A traineeship might be a good option. They develop your employability skills to help you progress into an apprenticeship or employment.

Types of jobs

There are lots of different job roles in social care; it just depends what you're interested in, who you want to work with and where you want to work.

Direct care roles

These roles involve directly working with people who need care and support

Management roles

These roles involve managerial responsibility where you could be responsible for managing a small team or be the CEO of an organisation.

Other social care support roles

Regulated professional roles

These roles mean you must be registered with a regulated body to practice. They require relevant qualifications which might include an undergraduate degree or diploma.

Ancillary roles

These roles don't involve direct care but are vital to the running of an organisation.

You can find about more jobs by visiting the Skills for Care website: <https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Careers-in-care/job-roles/Job-roles-in-social-care.aspx>

Traineeships are for 16 - 24 year olds who aren't in employment. They include work preparation training, such as CV writing, support with your English and maths skills, and a work placement. www.gov.uk/find-traineeship

Want to know more?
<https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Documents/Recruitment-and-retention/Pre-employment/Routeways-into-adult-social-care/Routeways-into-adult-social-care.pdf>

When you start

When you start you should get a thorough induction which includes the Care Certificate. This is a set of standards that everyone needs to do their role. Your employer should also ensure you have mandatory training relevant to your role such as fire safety, moving and handling and first aid.



The state of the adult social care sector and workforce in England

Key findings



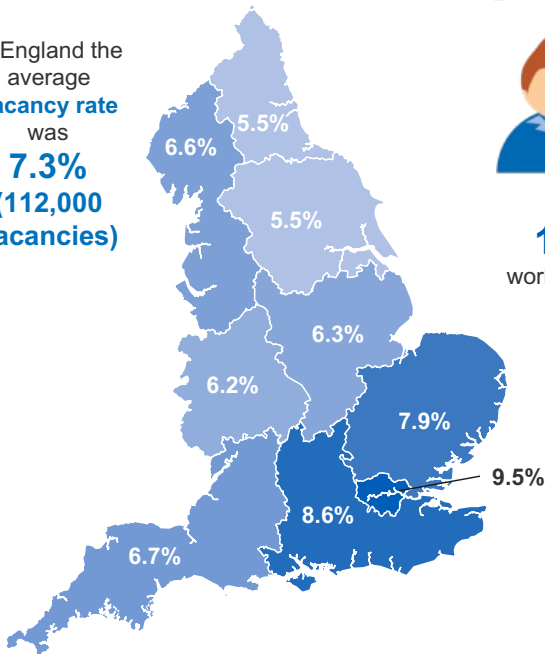
Source: Skills for Care workforce estimates, 2019/20

[Download PowerPoint](#)

[Press here to explore the data](#)

Workforce vacancy rate

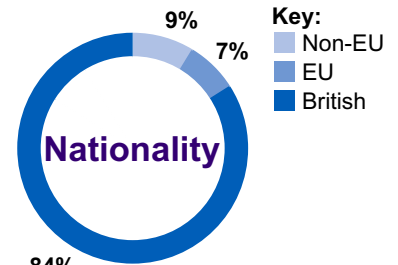
In England the average vacancy rate was **7.3%** (112,000 vacancies)



1.65m jobs

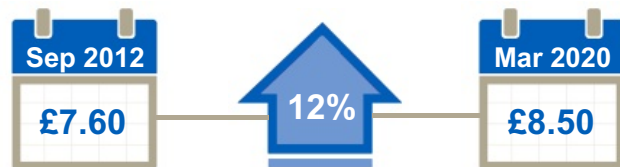


1.52m people working in adult social care in 2019/20



7% (113,000) of the workforce in England held an EU nationality

Care worker real term median hourly pay



Please note this refers to care workers in the independent sector only



24% of jobs were on zero-hours contracts



27% were aged 55 and above



66% of leavers remained in adult social care in 2019/20



The average turnover rate was **30.4%** (430,000 leavers in last 12 months)



You don't necessarily need qualifications to enter the sector - good employers should support and nurture you

Whilst you're working

The current qualification in health and social care are diplomas. These qualifications range from level 2 to level 5 and are evidence based so need to be done whilst you're at work.

You could also do smaller qualifications or training to help you develop specialist skills. This could be in things like:

- dementia care
- autism
- communication skills
- stroke
- end of life care
- activity provision
- team leading.

For some roles such as social worker or occupational therapist you'll need a degree to get a job. Or for some senior roles such as a manager or counsellor, you might need to have a relevant qualification.

Read more about what qualifications you need for different roles [here](#).



More info

You can find about more jobs by visiting the Skills for Care website: <https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Careers-in-care/job-roles/Job-roles-in-social-care.aspx>



Advanced Mathematics
Support Programme®

Why maths matters, to GCSE and beyond...



Are you finding it hard to motivate your child to do their maths? If so, try to get them thinking about what they'd like to do in the future. The chances are it will involve maths.

Who'd have thought that 'maths teacher' would be part of the parenting job description?? Maybe you've relished the home-school challenge? Or perhaps the thought fills you with dread as you hear yourself saying in frustration "we didn't do it like that in my day".

Well never fear! You don't need to dig out old textbooks or revise quadratic equations. Even though your child's teacher might now be 'virtual', they'll make sure the curriculum is covered. The best thing you can do to help is encourage and motivate.

So how can I motivate my child to study maths?

Many children underestimate their abilities. This can hold them back from achieving their full potential. It's been shown that self-belief is significant for success in maths. Encourage your child to focus on how far they have progressed over time and steer them away from judging themselves against others or comparing between subjects. Effort is the most important factor for success in maths and everyone can improve.

You can also help your child by highlighting how maths relates to the things they really care about. Being able to see the value in what they're learning can increase their motivation and commitment to work hard. It can also help them to work out which subjects will be most useful for achieving their future goals.

Do they want to make a difference in the world? Work in technology? Protect the environment? Find new treatments for diseases? Explore social issues? Design buildings? Help people with their mental health? Go to university? Maybe they have no idea what they want to do and want to keep their options open.

The number one subject that can help with all of those is maths.

Options beyond GCSE

If your child's in Year 11, you'll know that there's a lot of uncertainty around how they will be assessed for their GCSEs. At the same time they're being asked to make choices about what they'll do after GCSEs - a decision that may well affect their choices in life. Continuing to study maths will provide a wider range of career, qualification and study options.



You may be surprised to find out that in other countries, studying maths is compulsory to age 18!

The profile of jobs in the UK, and elsewhere, is changing. Roles that require STEM skills (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) are rising at twice the rate of other occupations.

Even if your child thinks a career in a STEM field is not for them, continuing with maths beyond GCSE gives them transferable skills, such as critical thinking and problem solving, which are relevant to succeeding in almost any career. It will also help them excel in day-to-day activities such as planning a project, managing a budget, or interpreting statistics quoted in the news.

If your child achieves a grade 4 or higher in GCSE Mathematics, they can choose from a range of advanced maths qualifications:

A level Mathematics is the most popular A level subject. It's a requirement for several degree courses such as Engineering, Physics, Statistics, and often Economics. It is also a typical subject taken by students on courses as wide ranging as Architecture, Law and Psychology. A level Mathematics is useful for higher apprenticeships in Accounting, Engineering, Teaching and Technology.

A level Further Mathematics goes beyond A level Mathematics. It's required or recommended for certain university courses, including Computer Science, Engineering, Mathematical Sciences and Physics. It is helpful too for higher apprenticeships in Actuarial Science, Data Science and Engineering.

Core Maths is a relatively new type of qualification. Developed with support from employers and universities, it's designed for students with a grade 4 or above in GCSE Mathematics, who have not chosen to study A level Mathematics. It focuses on developing the skills that students need to apply maths to the kinds of real-life problems they will meet in study, work and life.

Core Maths can be taken alongside A levels or other qualifications, including vocational courses. It's equal in size to an AS level, carrying the same number of UCAS tariff points. It supports the study of subjects such as Geography, Biology, Psychology, Sports and Social Science, and Business-related courses.

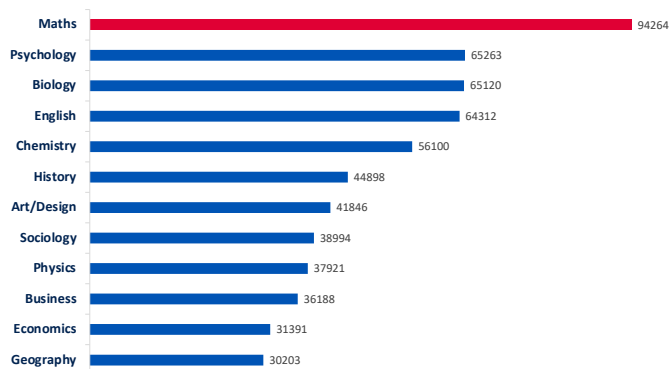
The good news is that you don't need specialist knowledge to help your child understand the importance of maths for their future.

What's important is to help your child make connections between maths and their own lives for themselves, rather than just telling them "it's important". An especially good time to do this is before or after a careers event and, of course, whenever your child says they can't see the point in studying maths!

Girls may tend to think STEM subjects are not relevant to their own life and career, but in a constantly evolving world, a strong background in maths is becoming increasingly important. Indeed, it may be close to essential by the time they enter the working world.

For further information about studying maths beyond GCSE, take a look at the [AMSP's website](#) and in particular their '[Why study maths?](#)' resources.

2020 UK A level entries by subject
Top 12 subjects only (JCQ data)



Did you know that taking A level Mathematics

- makes the biggest difference to getting into a top university
- can lead to reduced offers on some university courses - even for subjects that don't have a lot of mathematical content
- can lead to higher earnings





Why should you subscribe to Careermag?

Supporting your child in making important decisions about their future can be daunting. Careermag is packed full of useful information to help and has thousands of live vacancies for young talent.

That's where we step in to help!

Here at Careermag, we recognise that this is an important stage in your child's life. School is secure and offers rules to follow, so decisions almost feel are being made for them, from where to sit to what to wear. But as they are about to enter adult life, which means it's over to you to help them make BIG decisions!

Careermag connects you with 1000's of live opportunities. From apprenticeships to university opportunities, graduate options and gap years - we have so many post-16 options to choose from! Not only is Careermag the go-to place for your child to take a step closer to your dream career, we also provide high-quality career information and guidance.

"I don't know what I want to do!"

If you're looking for career inspiration then head over to [CareermagLive](#) or [Careermag](#).

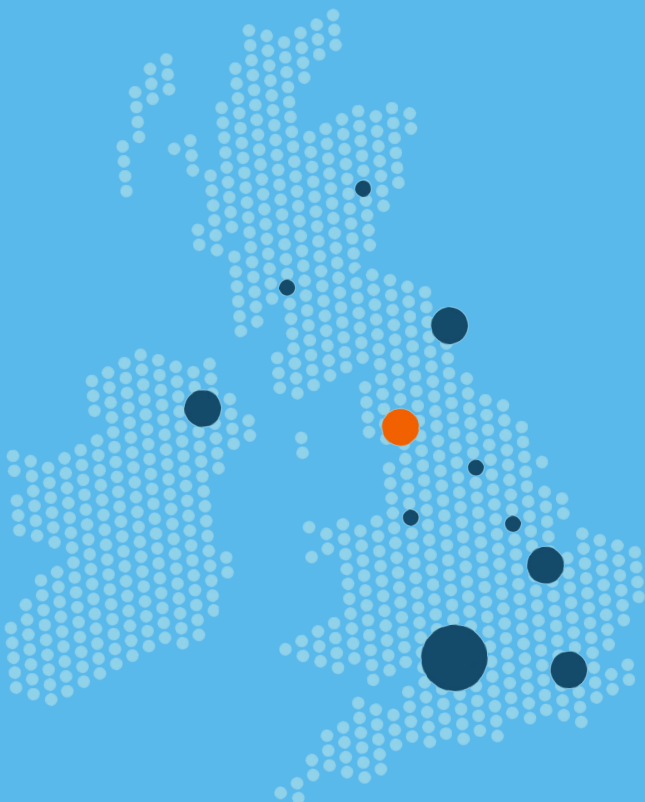
Careermag aims to connect students and their parents to quality advice and guidance. Careermag offers an exciting read focusing on opportunities from top employers, diversity, linking careers and curriculum, how technology can impact your future, inspiring case studies and future proof careers.

[CareermagLive](#) is a fun and visual learning resource which focuses on opening up a world of opportunities through innovative video clips. Top employers and apprentices share their experiences of entering the world of work, find motivating homework tips and learn about how creativity powers the world plus much more.

Head over to our [blog](#) section to learn about all the qualifications available, how to get the edge in a competitive job market, education and skills news, plus we also delve deep into the different industries you can work in.

Your child can start receiving job alerts from top employers looking to recruit an apprentice in your area? Simply get them to [subscribe](#) to Careermag to take a step closer to your dream career! You can even register your CV to be found by top employer and apprenticeship providers!

Get help with next steps after school or college and explore the amazing opportunities available on careermag.co.uk





SECTOR SPOTLIGHT

Pharmaceuticals



Making things better...

From a simple aspirin to lifesaving chemotherapy, the pharmaceutical industry discovers, develops, produces and distributes medication to cure or vaccinate against diseases or ease the symptoms. If your child is looking at a career in a globally respected UK sector which has the purpose of making us all feel better and live longer, read on.

About the pharmaceutical sector

We all benefit from the pharmaceutical industry. From cradle to grave, every one of us uses some form of medicine at some point - from teething gel for toddlers to palliative pain relief for end of life care. Some of humanity's greatest achievements have been in the pharmaceutical industry. And it is still working towards keeping us healthy, finding ways to protect us against diseases old and new and developing products which will improve our quality of life.



What can I do?

The sector divides into three main areas, each with very different career opportunities.

Product Research and Development

This is the first stage in identifying the need for, and then developing, a new drug. It includes:

- Lab based roles - scientists such as biochemists and microbiologists, lab technicians
- Clinical trials - administrators, research associates and healthcare professionals who bring their front line knowledge to the process
- Regulatory Affairs - roles which involve ongoing quality monitoring, collation and submission of data and information to the regulatory agencies.

Manufacture and Production

Once a product has been approved, it can be used by patients. Whilst the manufacture of medicines is much like any other process, it is surrounded by industry specific regulations for obvious reasons.

So alongside careers as production operatives and engineers, roles cover:

- Quality assurance - making sure there is no variance in manufacturing process
- Quality control - making sure every batch of medication meets the strict pharmacological regulations
- Computer system validation - ensuring that all computer systems are operating as they should
- Facilities engineering - making sure that the infrastructure is safe and efficient to work and manufacture products in

Distribution, Sales and Marketing

Roles in this area include:

- Medical representative - meeting healthcare professionals and introducing them to newly developed products
- Marketing manager - developing marketing materials and strategies
- Medical Science Liaison Officer - providing scientific information to customers
- Pharmacist

In addition there are roles in legal services, distribution, finance, HR and logistics.

Skills

The industry has opportunities in all three areas - product research and development, manufacture/production and distribution, sales and marketing. Each area looks for a different skill set, but all need good teamwork, time management and creativity. Andrew Croydon, Skills and Education Policy and Examinations Director of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry confirms this.

'Knowledge and understanding in the workplace must be complemented with possessing the right skills - both tangible and specialist. Increasingly, fulfilling careers in the industry are maximised by those who show adaptability and an ability for interdisciplinary working.'

Skills your child will need:

- For a science based career in the sector a deep understanding is needed of the specific area they have studied to degree level and in a STEM subject. The sector is always looking for graduates with Masters and PhD postgraduate qualifications - for some roles they are essential.



The industry employs 73,000 people in the UK and invests £4.3billion in UK based research and development - making the UK a global leader in the sector. (ABPI 2019 - www.abpi.org.uk)

- In other areas of the sector the academic requirements are in areas appropriate to them - e.g. for a legal career in the sector, a law degree is needed.

There are other routes into the sector which can replace or enhance these qualifications. See the Pathways and Qualification section.

All areas of the industry need:

- Problem solving skills
- Attention to detail and an analytical mind
- Strong numeracy and IT skills
- Planning, organisation, project management and presentation skills
- Teamwork
- Commercial awareness
- An enquiring mind and a creative approach





Pathways and Qualifications

So, how can your child get their career in the industry going?

SCIENCE BASED ROLES

To enter the sector after university, they will need to be studying for a degree in a STEM subject, and probably a life science.

There are opportunities in both government and commercial sectors, and some offer not only employment, but for those with the postgrad qualification, a PhD studentship, which allows you to earn while you learn.

They will need at least a 2:1 in a life science subject, and for higher level roles be studying, or intend to start, an MSc or similar. Subjects which are particularly useful are biochemistry, microbiology, natural sciences, pharmacology and biomedical science. Obvious degrees which would stand them in good stead are any which are included in medical or health fields.

They may be able to start at technician level with a BSc but to progress further they will need to study for a higher qualification, either before entering the workplace or during your first years.

Many pharmaceutical companies actively recruit graduates and offer great graduate schemes - examples are AstraZenec, GSK, Pfizer and Bayer - giving paid work whilst also giving hands on workplace experience and support in studying for further qualifications.

Obvious places to look are science-specific publications such as The New Scientist and online recruitment websites. There are two main industry bodies which publish up to date information on working in the sector - The ABPI and the RPS - with specific information and advice for graduates. If you have a particular company in mind and are already studying for a MSc etc, it's worth sending a speculative letter to them asking for more information about future opportunities, particularly if you are thinking of further study whilst being employed.

A pharmaceutical technician's average wage is £24,960 and the workforce is projected to increase by 4.9% by 2024

(www.careermap.co.uk/careerometer/)



As the industry is fast moving, it is always looking for inquisitive, rigorous new scientists with new ideas. So, it's right beside your child, ready to support them if they are thinking of being part of it, however they choose to enter it!

For graduate opportunities, head to www.careermap.co.uk

SUPPORTING ROLES

Like any other sector, the Pharmaceutical sector needs people skilled in other areas to help it function. A degree might be in marketing or law, HR or PR. If they have completed a degree in a subject like this, there are opportunities within the sector.

The annual turnover of pharmaceutical goods in the UK in 2017 was over £42billion

(www.statists.com)

Or their degree may be science based, but they also have a business head - they could combine the two and run their own successful pharmacy business or join the team of a high street pharma retailer and combine learning about retail as well as using their science background.

The industry also needs sales teams, distribution, manufacturing and logistics managers, IT specialists, data analysts, finance and project managers.

There are other areas of the industry which they could think about. They might be a great communicator, so have they thought about using their qualification in the media as a scientific writer? or maybe they'd rather use their skills in the forensic science field as a Scientific Officer? Or continue their studies and remain in academia and university based research?

Whatever they decide to do, they'll do it in the knowledge that they're part of a sector which is fast paced, fascinating and more and more important. And is ultimately there to protect lives and promote the health of all of us.

More info

The British Pharmaceutical Society

A charitable organisation which promotes the advance of the whole spectrum of pharmacology

They have an 'early career' membership scheme which costs £30 a year. Early Career Membership is for full time Postgraduate Students working on a pharmacological topic, Foundation Doctors, Clinical Fellows, Clinical Pharmacology Scientists, Core Medical Trainees, Specialist Trainees in their first or second year, Pharmacists in their first or second year of qualification, Industry Scientists within five years of the award of a degree and Post-Doctoral Researchers within five years of the award of a PhD.

www.bps.ac.uk

Royal Pharmaceutical Society

The professional membership body for pharmacists and pharmacy

www.rpharms.com

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry

The trade association for over 120 pharmaceutical companies in the UK

www.abpi.org.uk



Pfizer: Apprenticeships which change lives

Having an Apprenticeship at Pfizer means doing work that helps millions of people across the world benefit from life-changing treatment. It means working for a company that believes in equity, excellence and protecting your work-life balance. And it means working with colleagues who take your ideas seriously and support your learning and development.

If you want an Apprenticeship that matters, you'll find it at Pfizer.

Why we think apprenticeships are so important

You're the future. Your ambition, talents, ideas and unique way of looking at the world will help us drive innovation in every part of our business.

We need people with a hugely diverse range of talents. Love science? Join us in our drug development labs, or engineering teams. Want to work on the business side? Get stuck into an Apprenticeship to launch a career in anything from digital marketing to paralegal services.

Our apprenticeship scheme, run in partnership with Cogent Skills, offers the best of both worlds. You'll work with world-leaders in your field, from researchers to business gurus. You'll study towards a nationally recognised academic or professional qualification. And all the time, you'll be earning a highly competitive salary.



Pfizer Apprenticeships

Isabella Fasciani, Marketing Manager Apprentice

"I recently joined Pfizer after having applied during the first lockdown. This time last year I was planning on taking a gap year, working every day for the first half to make enough money to fuel me through Asia for the second half! But acknowledging the fact that travelling was no longer an option, I decided to seek out more substantial job opportunities.

*This apprenticeship gave me the opportunity to reach my true capabilities intellectually; it represents a true example of equity- I come from a low-income family with three A*s and an A from my A-Levels, without the option of being able to go to University and advance my career because of the fees. You can imagine my disappointment. But this apprenticeship gave me the chance to be me; develop to be my best whilst even receiving an advantage over those going to university. Without a huge amount of debt burdening me and also an immensely valuable repository of work experience from Pfizer that cannot be matched in today's environment."*



Kathryn Indrapally, Laboratory Scientist Apprentice

"I was able to start my career at the age of 18 whilst continuing to study and expand my knowledge. Doing an apprenticeship at Pfizer is a great privilege as its products that can change patient's lives. This apprenticeship allows me to gain valuable experience while contributing to make medicine that changes lives.

It has only been around six months since I started this Apprenticeship however I have been the opportunity to work within a lab, collate data that allows us to understand the characteristics of a particle which effects the manufacturing of a drug. It is an honour for me to work with a team where everyone strives together for the greater good knowing that our work can transform someone's life to something they could have only dreamt of previously. I am also working towards a pharmaceutical degree. Being an apprentice is in the simplest of terms - getting the best of both worlds; Learning while practicing."



Apply now

www.pfizer.co.uk/apprenticeships



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Careers in the Merchant Navy. A career like no other



This is an exciting opportunity for young people to get a career in the Merchant Navy “nothing to do with the Royal Navy”. The Merchant Navy is commercial shipping encompassing: Cruise Liners, Ferries Offshore, Container ships, tankers, cable layers, Dredgers, Tugs, etc.

Now we are no longer part of Europe our trade with the rest of the world is set to grow and 95% of all of our trade is imported or exported by sea so the future opportunities look fantastic.

We are looking for highly motivated individuals to be our next Captains or Chief Engineers or Senior Electro Tech Officers.

The training is three years long with multiple entry levels either HNC, HND or Foundation degree.

The three years is divided into 5 Phases:

- Phase One at college completing academic studies.
- Phase Two at sea completing practical training.
- Phase Three at college completing academic studies.
- Phase Four at sea completing practical training.
- Phase Five at college finishing academic studies and exams with the issue of your certificate of competency, which allows you to work on any ship anywhere in the world.

The training is all Higher Education and fully sponsored and you receive a training allowance for your own use. At the end of training, you should be debt free and looking forward to a starting salary approx. £30,000 potentially tax free.



For further information please visit
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Application form:
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Apprenticeship benefits?

Apprenticeships have been in the news in recent years as a solid alternative to the 'flight path' route to employment which suggests students go from GCSEs to A Levels, on to University and then into graduate-level jobs.

The Apprenticeship Levy placed on UK businesses since 2017 has collected funds from large employers (based on 0.5% of any company's salary bill which exceeds £3 million a year) and planned to bring in over £3bn by 2020/21. This Levy was then destined to be used by employers to create and fund the apprenticeships they needed in their industries to meet the needs of the future. Good plan.

In theory, they're fantastic. A skills-based qualification which pays the young person WHILE they learn and an average of 300,000 a year have been started since 2019, with a slight fall in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. Young people are signed up to a minimum of 30 hours of on and off-the-job training and can be studied at different levels.

Name	Level	Equivalent educational level
Intermediate	2	5 GCSE passes at grades A* to C
Advanced	3	2 A level passes
Higher	4, 5,6 and 7	Foundation degree and above

So far, so great eh? Well, there's a bit more to the apprenticeship story than meets the eye. Whilst there are great opportunities for the young people involved and a number of them will go onto securing full time jobs with the employers who sponsor their learning, accepting an apprenticeship can affect other aspects of a family household's income.

Recently I chanced upon a discussion in a Careers-focused Facebook group regarding apprenticeship choices and benefits. In essence, a student at the school of one of the careers advisors on the group was asking about changes to the parents' benefits / income support / Universal Credit if the student decided to take on an Apprenticeship with a local company – as opposed to taking a non-advanced FE Course.

Because I'd never heard of this before, I did some research. According to the Gingerbread Charity:

- A child staying on at school or doing a NON-ADVANCED course at FE is still seen as a dependent and can continue to be funded and supported within the family budget as a child so child benefit and tax credits are still applicable.
- A child applying to and getting accepted for a full-time advanced or higher apprenticeship regardless of the level of pay, (sometimes as low as £4.15 an hour) is no longer seen as a dependent so the parent must alert the authorities. Doing this will mean that they will lose Child Benefit. The parent will also lose housing benefit for that young person and their Family Tax Credits and Council Tax reduction entitlement will also change.

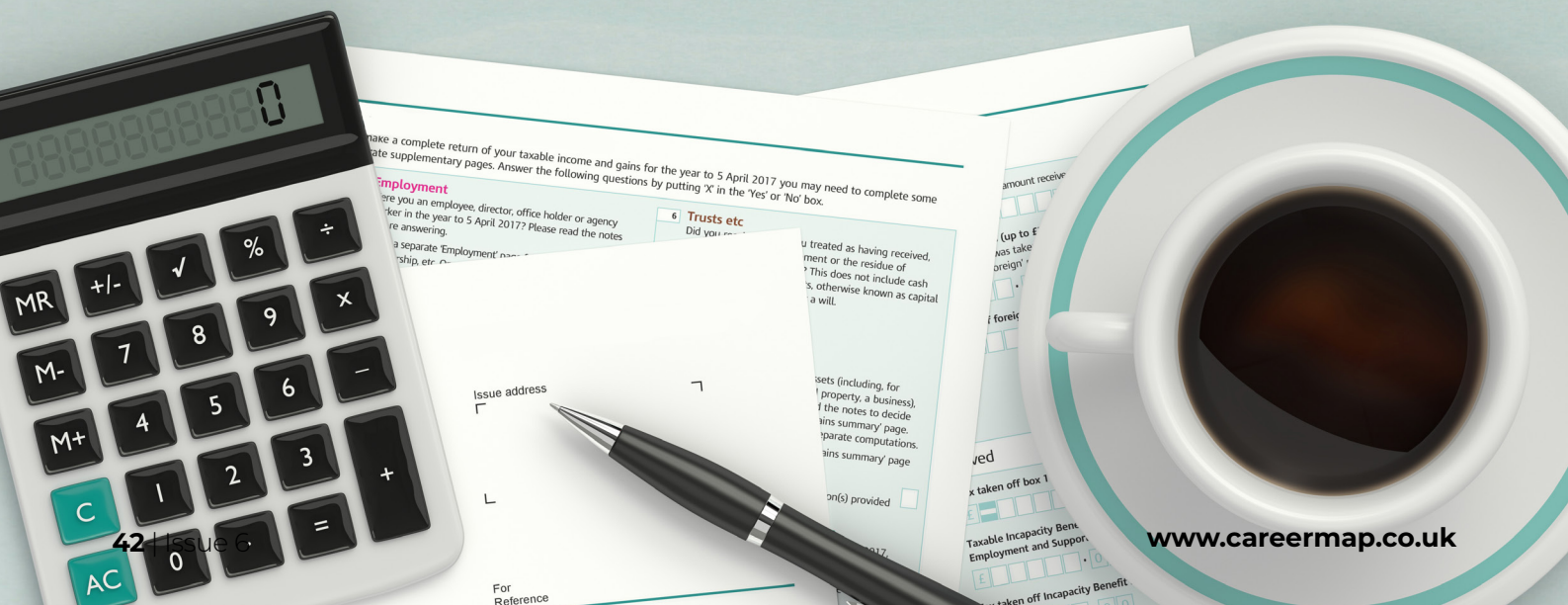
It is very likely that anyone starting an Apprenticeship will have additional costs and expenses for transport, possibly clothing, food and more daily expenses. It would seem that to reduce the family budget at this time is likely to act as a disincentive for parental support, could reduce motivation for the young person to choose an apprenticeship and potentially affect the life-chances of that young person throughout their career.

It's important that careers advisors, teachers and parents are aware of this situation because although lifting the life chances of the young person in a family through an apprenticeship is admirable and positive, to do so at the expense of the living standard of the whole family could be very costly indeed – both financially and socially.

Andrew 'Bernie' Bernard is a speaker, an entrepreneur, a Director of National Careers Week and an author. His first book for Independent Thinking, *The Ladder*, is published in February.



Twitter: [@EnterpriseSBox](https://twitter.com/EnterpriseSBox)



5 reasons an apprenticeship in energy and utilities could be right for your child



1 Join the green workforce

The UK aims to cut carbon emissions and reach net zero by 2050. The energy and utilities sector will play a major part, but we'll have to build our green workforce. **277,000 new recruits are needed in the sector in the next 10 years** to help the UK transition to a more sustainable future. Through an apprenticeship, your child can learn the vital skills to help us build a greener, cleaner future.

1

2 Skip the student debt

Heading to university isn't cheap. With tuition fees and living costs, many students graduate with debts. **With an apprenticeship, there are no fees to pay.**

2

3 Earn from day one

As an apprentice, they'll receive a salary. **Average salaries while in training for those in an energy and utilities apprenticeship were higher than the average of all apprenticeships.** Retention and continued employment is also higher than average.

3

4 Kick-start a career

With an apprenticeship, they're acquiring the skills that employers really want. **They have a clear career path,** rather than having to work out which direction to take at the end of their studies and hoping their qualifications will open the right doors.

4

5 Get qualifications and experience

An apprenticeship is hands-on, but that doesn't mean they won't be achieving qualifications. **Apprenticeships in the energy and utilities sector have great starting salaries, training and mentoring and of course, opportunities for career progression.**

5

Find roles at careers.energyutilitiesjobs.co.uk

